



* Given to me by Lora Werner 8/30 @ 1⁰⁰ PM
* Give a copy to Fran to share with Fred FAX

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ATSDR  	Milestone
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Was this a request

☒ Y

Request Narrative

Dr. Jim Pearson, VA Div of Consolidated Laboratories director, called me to further discuss EPA's plans for this site. His phone number is 804-648-4480. I offered to set up a conference call with EPA and/or EPA's contractors and his staff.

Requester

State Health

Date of Request

7/1/2004

Was this Followed-up with

☒ Y

reasonNotFollowedUp:

Followup/Activity

Participation Multi-Agency Meetings

Site

Flow Laboratories, VA

Description of followup or activity

I facilitated a conference call with the VA state lab (Dr. Jim Pearson, Dr. Tom York, Dr. Lisa Weymouth, Dr. Judy Carroll), Tetratex (Kevin Scott), and ATSDR (Tom Stukas and me).

The property has been vacant since 1985. The state of VA requested EPA's assistance. There are 3 buildings on site, EPA has been in side only one of these buildings so far. It contained the ultralow temperature refrigerator. The site has been under investigation since 1998. Soil sampling in the past was only for primary pollutants, not biological entities.

OSC Guarni requested sampling at this site to see if any pathogens are still present, and he asked Kevin to focus on airborne and surface pathways. There are proposed plans for a development and a road to go through the animal burial zone at the site.

Dr. Pearson stated that there are not any viruses that could survive without a host for more than a few weeks at most. He said sampling for bacteria (as well as fungi and spores) at any location will detect bacteria. You couldn't link any positive detections with previous activities at the laboratory. He did not recommend sampling for anything beyond anthrax spores, and not even that unless there was evidence that the laboratory actually dealt with these spores. He strongly recommended that EPA not get involved in trying to clean up or "sterilize" a 150 acre property. He does not have any concerns about non-viables on this property, therefore respirable versus non-respirable fractions are a non-issue. He recommended fogging the place with formaldehyde and closing it down as one would normally proceed with a building contaminated with animal excreta. He also did not recommend test trenching in the animal burial area, again because no disease-causing agents would remain viable.

It is not clear whether DOH or Agriculture have been involved or contacted about this site.

Kevin said it was Paul Hermann at VA DEQ who felt the property looked 'abnormally sterile.'

Dr. Pearson recommended having a microbiologist tour the facility and review the facility's catalogues. Kevin will send the catalog to Dr. Pearson, and will coordinate a site visit with his staff.

Date/time of followup or Activity

7/6/2004

Rep

Lora Werner

Region:

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ATSDR
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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA***Department of General Services*

Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

August 27, 2004

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Dr. Jim Pearson
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6A

Dr. Pearson:

On August 8, 2004 at 1:00 PM, it was proposed that a team meet with the Project Manager and staff from Tetra Tech EM Inc., in Dublin, Virginia. The purpose of this team was to tour the Flow Laboratories abandoned site; and to provide recommendations for the testing of bacterial and/or chemical agents as a part of the proposed Removal Site Evaluation for this area. A specialized team was to be comprised of staff from Tetra Tech EM Inc, the Environmental Protection Agency, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Consumer Services and myself, representing the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services. When I arrived at the designated meeting area on August 8, 2004, I was informed by the Project Manager from Tetra Tech EM Inc. that the other members of the team were unable to meet and tour the Flow Laboratories site. We then proceeded to the site and completed the tour as scheduled.

Prior to the beginning of the tour, the Project Manager provided background information for the site. Flow Laboratories was located on 5400 Reserve Way, Dublin, Virginia. Flow Laboratories had resided on property that had been a World War II era munitions plant that began operations around 1970. It appears the plant housed small and large animals (guinea pigs, goats, monkeys, and swine) on-site, and primarily manufactured anti-sera and cell culture materials. Flow Laboratories ceased operations in 1985 and the site has been abandoned for a "number of years".

We proceeded to inspect the site which consisted of buildings 444, 471, 472, 473, 464 and 465. A map of this site is provided (Attachment 1). We also briefly toured the area in the woods that was suspected of being a burial ground for larger animals slightly NE of buildings 472 and 473. The Project Manager documented portions of the inspection with photographs (Attachment 2). The following are the observations made touring this site:

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- The buildings are basically open to the environment (lack windows, doors) and have dilapidated with age.
- The buildings were overgrown with vegetation in many areas.
- There was ample evidence of animal inhabitation within and around the abandoned buildings (animal feces, nests, insects, birds and small animals).
- There was evidence of humans hunting and drinking beverages inside and around these facilities.
- Several pieces of lab equipment had been abandoned (cages, cage washer, freezer, and incubator).
- Several cages did have signs and two were noted as having the words "Herpes" and "Adeno" on them.
- There were "trenches" within the area described as a "burial ground" for animals. We did find some small bones around the site and plastic lab waste.

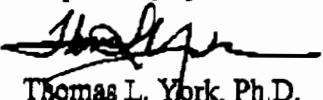
There are very few conclusions that I can draw from this tour other than the following:

- This site has been abandoned for many years.
- Humans and animals are frequenting and residing in these areas.
- The equipment remaining within the lab is consistent with what you would expect within a laboratory preparing anti-sera and cell culture materials.
- Without more information about this site and without any evidence of human or animal disease within this area I found no evidence to support preparing and implementing an extensive biological or chemical testing plan for this site beyond whatever would be required for "normal reclamation".

The tour was completed at approximately 3:00 PM.

Prepared by: jcn

Date: August 27, 2004


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